9/16/70

Dear Hal,

Far from comforting me, your letter ofm9/12 is more disturbing, for it would seem to eliminate the possibility of compulsion, without which none of that strange, whore-hpurse non-science makes no sense at all to me. It is simply incredible that Paul would hoke up such absolute nonsense and tell himself that it bears any realtionship to science. Nor can I conceive that he is unaware that were everything he alleges in it true, and none of it is, it would in no way even address whether or not there was more than a single assassin. I mean, that stuff is so very bad in every way, with no single redeeming feature, that I just cannot consider it has any association with Paul, whose integrity has never been in question in my mind (I presume that by now you know others do not feel this way) and whose judgement and really solid, conservative reasoning were always impressive. I cannot begin to tell you how much respect I have had in him, and how much trust.

In a sense, it is an infantile project, for he had to know that it would be misused by the press, and that the cause of truth, even if his work were credible, could not but be severely damaged, This also, it would seem to me, would have deterred him fwm such a terrible thing

I have dropped everything to make immediate response, without even looking at theother letters and merely skimming the very interesting enclosures. I hope that you will have read his paper by the time you get this, for I'm enclosing a copy of what I did, in great haste, making the notes as I read the thing. I would not want my opinions to prejudice yours, and it is for this reason I've made no distribution of what I did. I will have no choice unless I hear this mongolian idiocy is aborted, and, as I indicated to him, I will be demanding equal space of Physics Today.

Of all the work that is to be done, why in the world that fine mind would devote itself to what at best had to be equivocal and out of context I can not understand.

But from my dim recollections of school science on the sub-doctoral level, I know this is anything but a scientific study, totally lacks verisimilitude, and is as rational as equating cabbages and kings.

What it omits is likewaise fantastic, permitting no accounting of the things of which we know, such as the other shots, the one he must as a minimum accept being whichever one wounded Tague, those for which he accounts not having the capability. And to say, which is what he really does, that all of this fecal matter says the shots came from the sixthOfloor window----.

It is really so terrible, I thought he was putting all sorts of crap in so it could be shot down. It contains its own total disqualification with the case of the gelatin-filled balloons. While this also is not comparable, it is much closer to the reality than the undescribed melons of whatever species and size, whatever degree of ripeness, whatever skin thicknesses, and whatever invalid method of mounting.

What we have to do here is more than prevent another great damage to us. We have to prevent Paul's ruin of his own reputation, and here I mean not only

among criticis , but what will hurt him much more in the long run, in his field. Should that monster get published, the criticism that will reach the publication will forever end him there, and unless they are totally corruot, they will have to print what will, inevitably, ruin him.

Believing that he had been in some way forced to do this, I also asked for several copies to submit to my own scientific experts. There has been no response. Although I didn't address all the assassination aspects, as who can with such drivvel and when rushing through it, I did enough to destroy his contraption. The scientific part can be even more deadly, for he has no single valid point save the in vacuuo quotation of principle, which is not really revevant. I mean not one thing is correct, not the composition or consistency of the melon (which I'd suggested as a means of seeing what happens when a bullet explodes), no duplication of skin or bone, no comparable mounting, no comparable angles (and they are, deliberately, the wrong ones), no comparable points of alleged entrance (which has much to do with leverage), no comparable weapon, no comparable ammo (not even identified), no comparable velocities.,I mean, absolutely nothing can be compared. Sicence? Can you understand why I felt Paul could have had no voluntary association with this?

Precisely because of the high esteem in which he is (has been?) held by so many will it be impossible to convince some that he is not some kind of agent, or hasn't sold out, etc. The timing will beparticularly hurtful, including to me. It coincides with the approximate publication of FRAMEUP, with suits I've filed and to his knowledge plan to. These things have just occurred to me while writing. He could no better serve government purposes, nor for these purposes could his timing be better. The last thing I want is to have to attack Paul in any way, personally or professionally. But this rotten thing leaves me no alternative.

One of the worst parts is that in publishing it will have to be contracted, so all the crappy procedures will be unknown to the audience which will, on Alvarez' name alone, accept it. This is the same Alvarez who stole what was copyrighted by claiming it was original with him and then performed such science that he in no case tested the background in the pictures. He's some sciantist, too. But there is no doubt that in almost no case will the ultimate reader be in a position to evaluate, and the press, which has the predisposition we know, will be in at least as bad a position, perhaps worse, depending on the credentials of those assigned to the story. Every aspect is simply ghastly.

My own work pressures are such I didn't have time to read my analysis, as I will not have time to correct this. I 'm way behind in everything, including what can give us definitive interpretations and answers, as in court. The time this mess wastes could have done much there. And even the concept was such a futility.... It is, as I called it, flat-world science. What in the world has happened to that fine mind?...I know he had been working on this from the suggestions he made about it. I also know he ignored my cautions and when he was here, had almost no time to spend with me and then stayed entirely off of this. With the work I've done on the medical evidence alone I cannot but wonder about this...And his total divorcement from any consideration of the evidence of the wounds. That is science? It is, rather, fairies and needles.

If, as you say, a skeptical bent of mind prompted the work, no skeptical mind evaluated it before writing. Frankly, some of Garrison's worst is more credible. Garrison, at least, did not invent fact, he merely dreamed or repeated. No, I guess that is unfair. He did misinteppret and has the responsibility for what he repeated. But he, at least, is a sick man, as you know I detected, if too late.

Paul did not "conduct...the experiments necessary to support the conclusions", not in any sense, and the invalid experiments do not support it.

The wierdest thing is that conclusions are drawn that do not comefrom the experiments and the experiments themselves destroy themselves. There is no support. It is something below even the Warren Commission.

I fear that most, like Sylvia, will be too stunned to take the time to really analyze, and not oneis a physicist. Few, if any, have done any work permitting anything but general comment and the far-out ones, like Smith, who you do not know, threw in a lot of fake praise so as not to seem to be too harsh, exactly the kind of craziness that will be misinterpreted. All the kind words he put in are false, for he wanted to lean over backward to avoid hurting Paul's feelings. He knows little anyway. He answered for Bud, who also has donelittle real study and knows much less of the evidence than you'd offhand believe.

Your comment on his having to lend his name to the work of the head of the department I can understand, but this seems to be theopposite case, where he is expliting the fame and reputation of the head of the department (the reaction there will not help Paul a bit, believe me!).

I take no solace from your suggestion that we've had to fight such stuff before. I've been ruined by such needs, could have done much better with the enormous time required, and could stand to have the reduced indebtedness not having had these costs would have achieved. Paul is the one I'd never have dreamed would cause this kind of enormous hurt.

Having not been able to read the enclosures, I can't answer on the underground whitehouse. I'll try and remember when I can read them. But there are several places that could be so designated, none of those of which I know being new.

By the end of next week I'll be even busier, so the timeI can give Paul for response is not long. He's had enough time now. I'll have to write Physics Today very soon or I'll risk being too late. I'd rather not do anything until there is no doubt Paul and his crew are proceeding, for I do not want to hurt him. Which is really saying I do not want him to hurt himself. By the way, I'm confident I told him to consult Bernabei, who is expert in matters concerning guns. If he has, I've had no inkling from Bernabei, and I'm sure I would have. By the way, you should understand that I am not saying it is wrong to prove the government was right in certain aspects. Dick and I went to much trouble and expense testing some of the ballistics things, like could the dents in the casings have gotten there naturally. The FBI never proved this, never even addressed it. We did, and we did prove it is possible. But we did nothing so stupid as rushing into print with what means nothing. If Paul's paper were avlid, it still has no meaning for he does not and cannot place it in any significant context, for it still addresses none of the basic fact relating to either conspiracy or whether LHO was a or the assassin. I repeat again, it is all so incredible...

Thanks for the gossip from Fred. It serves a useful purpose I can't go into, but that RFK crew may also cause us more harm. If a born wierdo like Fred has misgivings....

Hurriedly,